

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

February 16, 2007

MT. VERNON RESIDENT CHARGED FOR DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 7, 2007, **KENDEL W. McKINNEY**, age 23, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was named in a two-count Indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois.

McKINNEY was charged with two counts of distributing crack cocaine. The charges are alleged to have occurred during June 2005.

With respect to each of the two counts, **McKINNEY** faces a penalty of up to 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000,000, and a term of supervised release of at least 3 years.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.